

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3469

JCS WASHDC

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCUNC

COMNAVFORKOREA

S E C R E T SEOUL 2582

JOINT EMBASSY/UNC MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, KS, KN

SUBJ: NORTHWEST COASTAL WATERS SITUATION

REF: STATE 45472 (062314Z MARCH) AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS QUIET SITUATION IN NORTHWEST COAST AREA AND ROKG DECISION TO MOVE SUMMER FISHING LINE SOUTH RATHER THAN NORTH ON MAY 1. END SUMMARY.

1. GENERAL: THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY IN THE NORTHWEST COAST AREA IN RECENT WEEKS. THE ISLANDS REINFORCEMENT HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED WITHOUT NORTH KOREAN REACTION OR INDICATION THE NORTH IS AWARE OF IT. NORTHERN PATROL BOATS CONTINUE TO OPERATE ACROSS NORTHERN LIMIT LINE BUT HAVE NOT HARASSED SOUTHERN BOATS OR ENTERED THREE MILE CONTIGUOUS WATERS OF ISLANDS.

2. FISHING LINE: IN MEANTIME THE ROKG HAS DECIDED TO AUTHORIZE

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THE KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE (COAST GUARD) AND THE NAVY TO ESTABLISH

A FISHING LIMIT WHICH EXTENDS EAST AND WEST AT LATITUDE 37-20 N. AN EXIT/ENTRANCE LANE EXTENDING DIRECTLY SOUTH FROM THE P-Y DO ISLAND GROUP WILL ALSO BE PERMITTED FOR THE USE OF LOCAL FISHING BOATS. THIS NEW FISHING LINE IS TEN MILES SOUTH OF THE OLD LINE IN THE AREA EAST OF THE P-Y-DO ISLANDS AND 35 MILES SOUTH OF THE OLD LINE TO THE WEST OF THE ISLANDS.

3. THE NEW LINE IS CLASSIFIED AND WILL NOT BE ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY, BUT WILL SIMPLY BE ENFORCED STARTING MAY 1. ROK AUTHORITIES ANTICIPATE NO DIFFICULTIES FROM FISHERMEN PARTLY BECAUSE OF THEIR INCREASED CAUTION SINCE FISHING BOAT INCIDENT ON FEBRUARY 15, BUT PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE NORTHWARD MIGRATION OF FISH HAS GRADUALLY REDUCED, RESULTING IN DECREASED PRESSURE BY FISHING BOATS TO MOVE NORTH IN LARGE NUMBERS.

4. NEW SUMMER FISHING LINE IS WELL BEHIND THE NORTHERNMOST REACH OF PRESENT ROK PATROLS AND, BY CONTRAST WITH THE PAST NORTHERLY EXTENSION DISCUSSED IN SEOUL 173, REPRESENTS AN EXTREMELY SOUND APPROACH TO LESSEN POSSIBILITY OF FISHING BOAT INCIDENTS.

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Message Attributes

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